

## House Resolution 944

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63<sup>rd</sup>, Martin of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Williams of the 165<sup>th</sup>, Smyre of the 132<sup>nd</sup>, Mangham of the 94<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating the life and accomplishments of Coach Eddie Robinson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Coach Eddie Robinson, whose career as football coach at Grambling State  
3 University spanned 57 years and who exerted a positive influence on the lives of countless  
4 young men, passed away on April 4, 2007, at the age of 88; and
- 5 WHEREAS, in 1941, Grambling, then known as Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial  
6 Institute, hired Coach Robinson to coach football and basketball and teach physical  
7 education; and
- 8 WHEREAS, in his first season, he had no assistants and no budget for replacing equipment,  
9 and he handled virtually everything himself, from mowing the field to taping players' ankles  
10 to writing accounts of the games for the local newspaper; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the first season his team posted a record of 3-5, but the next season he guided  
12 the team to a perfect 8-0 record, and under his guidance, the Grambling Tigers went on to  
13 have two more perfect seasons, capture 17 conference titles, and win several National Negro  
14 Championships; and
- 15 WHEREAS, more than 200 of his players went on to compete in the National Football  
16 League, including NFL Hall of Fame members Willie Davis, Willie Brown, and Buck  
17 Buchanan; and
- 18 WHEREAS, his influence off the playing field was equally positive, and he treated everyone  
19 he met as if that person were his brother or sister; and

1 WHEREAS, he spent his entire head coaching career at Grambling State University, and at  
2 the end of the 1997 season, he retired with a lifetime record of 408-165-15, more wins than  
3 any other coach in history; and

4 WHEREAS, Eddie Robinson is survived by his wife, son, Eddie Robinson, Jr., daughter,  
5 Lillian Rose Robinson, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
7 the members of this body join the family and friends of Coach Eddie Robinson in celebrating  
8 the life and accomplishments of this truly amazing man.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
10 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Coach Eddie  
11 Robinson.